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each individual of a species in the same organic and instinctive mould, that cannot change. Individuals of the same species may change in ornamentation, but never in structure, unless as the consequence of amalgamation with another species, or an occasional abnormal modification, which is individual, not specific, and disappears with the individual. The creative fiat involved in the life of every species and in its conditions, remains unalterable, because change in that which has an organic, vital and spiritual significance cannot take place without destruction to the species.

The supposition that "profitable variations of structure" may be initiated in the cell action of the reproductive system, in order that organisms may more successfully maintain an overestimated "struggle for existence," is simply a monstrous physiological fallacy and assumption. If we suppose amalgamating influences to be inoperative, where do we perceive the evidences of it? The vegetable perpetuates itself by a germ, which already has its type distinctly impressed on it before the character of its architecture is developed by the effect of influences under which it is gradually worked out, cell upon cell, in one season or through a long series of years. In the animal, the reproductive action is most probably, nay, there are well ascertained facts which directly teach us that it is a simple process of *continuous growth in species*. Thus species have not a transient existence, but rather a terrestrial immortality. Individual life is ephemeral, specific life co-eternal with the existence of the conception producing the representative forms. Individual lives are like the leaves of a deciduous tree, and having performed their functions are constantly shed, while the source of them continues to spread itself through space and time, until its appointed period has ended.

Under this simple view of species, supported alike by reason and all carefully collated physiological facts, how the study of the humblest branch of Zoology is ennobled. It acknowledges the existence in nature of a Principle as a creative power, similar to our own minds. It deals with living thoughts, and seeks to represent, through many misconceptions and difficulties, the logical sequences existing amongst them, and to seize the hidden meanings which appeal to our intelligence, in the ponderous volume on which they are inscribed.

NOTE.—The reader is requested to make the following corrections:—

In Paper 4, May, 1860, p. 160, for *Nomia*, read *Chrysopora*. *Nomia* is already in use to designate a genus of Bees.

In Paper 5, June, 1860, p. 219, line 21, for *graduation* read *gradation*.

September 4th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-seven members present.

The following papers were presented for publication: "Description of a new species of *Astroscopus*, *Brev.*, in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, by Charles C. Abbott."

"Description of a new species of *Chatoessus*, *Cuv.*, from New Jersey, by Charles C. Abbott."

And were referred to a Committee.

September 11th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair

Fifteen members present.

[Sept.